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EXAMINER

STIMPERT, PHILIP EARL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3746

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/10/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 6,361,290 to Ide (Ide).

3. Regarding claim 1, Ide teaches a hermetic compressor (see Fig. 12) comprising a hermetic container (1) storing an oil (23), and a compression element (2) accommodated in the hermetic container (1) and compressing a refrigerant gas (see col. 10, ln. 61). Ide teaches that the compressing element (2) comprises a compressing chamber (21), a cylinder (4) forming the compressing chamber (21), a piston (5) inserted into the cylinder (4) and reciprocating, a suction muffler (8) whose one end (8b) communicates (col. 11, ln. 38-42) with the compression chamber (21). Further, Ide teaches that the suction muffler (8) has a sound deadening space (the cavity discussed in col. 12, ln. 28 and visible in the drawings, for instance Fig. 1) having a first surface (any of the side walls of thereof), an inlet pipe (8a) having one end opening to the sound deadening space along the first surface (in the absence of suction pipe 9), an outlet pipe (8b) having one end opening in the sound deadening space and the other opening to the compression chamber (at 22, col. 11, ln. 5-13), a gas flow forming part (8a or 8b, as shown in Fig. 1) forming a gas flow flowing in a constant direction (namely into or out

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of the muffler 8, parallel to the axis of the relevant port) in the sound deadening space.

Finally, Ide teaches an oil discharge opening (col. 12, ln. 65 through col. 13, ln. 2)

provided at a lower part of the sound deadening space (and therefore in a downstream side, since the flow starts at the top of the sound deadening space at inlet 8a).

4. Regarding claim 2, Ide teaches an inlet pipe (8a) whose one (interior) end opens to the sound deadening space, and whose other end opens to the hermetic container (1, see Fig. 13). Further, the inlet pipe (8a) is located on a right end face of the sound deadening space (as shown in Fig. 1) and thereby constitutes the gas flow forming part. The examiner notes that “a thin part” is extremely broad, and reads on the sound deadening space as a whole. The inlet and outlet pipe openings are thus considered to be provided at a thin part of the sound deadening space.

5. Regarding claim 3, Ide teaches that the outlet pipe (8b) opens while being extended to a lower face of the sound deadening space and thereby constitutes the gas flow forming part.

6. Regarding claim 4, as shown in Fig. 5, Ide teaches that the outlet pipe (8b) is substantially near, and thus adjacent, an upper end face (8d) of the sound deadening space.

7. Regarding claims 5 and 8-10, as shown in Fig. 13, Ide teaches that the lower face of the sound deadening space is constituted by a substantially horizontal face. Further, though Ide does not explicitly show the oil discharge opening, it would be provided at an end part of the lower face of the sound deadening space (note that end

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part may refer to the face as a whole, in its capacity as the lower end of the sound deadening space).

8. Regarding claims 6, 7, and 11-13, Ide teaches that the suction muffler is formed with an annular gas passage between the outer wall (82) and the outlet pipe (8b).

9. Regarding claim 14, Ide teaches a visor (8f) which protrudes as an eaves above the discharge opening.

10. Regarding claim 15, Ide teaches that the opening of the outlet pipe (8b) is provided in the lower central portion (82) of the sound deadening space, which may be considered the thin part thereof.

11. Regarding claim 16, Ide teaches that the outlet pipe has a right angle bend where the refrigerant gas enters the compression chamber.

12. Claims 16-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US PGPub 2004/0179955 to Lee (Lee).

13. Regarding claim 16, Lee teaches a hermetic compressor (100) comprising a hermetic container (500) for storing oil (paragraph 54) and a compressing element (300) in the container for compressing a refrigerant gas. Lee teaches that the compressing element (300) comprises a cylinder (31), a piston (34) reciprocating in the cylinder, and a compression chamber (31a) defined by the cylinder and piston. Lee further teaches a suction muffler (400) having a sound deadening space (45) defined within a top wall (not labeled), side walls (41, 42) and a bottom wall (in which 48 is formed). Lee teaches that the suction muffler comprises an inlet pipe (46) having an internal opening (at the

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top thereof) that opens into the sound deadening space (45) and an external opening (at the bottom thereof) for ingress of the refrigerant gas. Lee further teaches that the suction muffler comprises an outlet pipe (41) having an internal opening (41b) that opens into the sound deadening space and an external opening (41a) for egress of the refrigerant to the compression chamber (see Fig. 1). Lee further teaches an oil discharge opening (48) provided at a bottom part of the sound deadening space (45) adjacent the near sidewalls such that oil pooled near the junction of the sidewalls and bottom wall can discharge through the opening (48). Lee also teaches that the gas flows in a constant circumferential direction along the side walls due to the placement of the inlet and outlet pipe openings. Finally, Lee teaches that the internal opening of the inlet pipe is disposed in a location within the sound deadening space (45) so as to constitute a gas flow forming part that causes a flow of the refrigerant gas along the bottom part in a constant downward direction toward the oil discharge opening to cause the oil to pool thereat.

14. Regarding claim 17, Lee teaches that the internal opening of the inlet pipe is disposed so that the gas flow forming part causes the refrigerant gas to flow along a generally annular path (shown by the arrows in Fig. 4, the annular path is defined by the space between 41 and 42) within the sound deadening space (45).

15. Regarding claims 18 and 19, Lee teaches that the sound deadening space comprises an upper portion (defined by the cylindrical portion of 42) and a lower portion (47 and spherical transition from 42 to 47), the lower portion having a center portion (47) which is thinner than the side portions (hemispheres thereabove, delimited by any

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arbitrary diameter of the axial cross section) which are arranged on opposite sides of the central portion.

16. Regarding claim 20, Lee teaches a visor (43) which protrudes as an eaves above the oil discharge opening.

17. Regarding claim 22, Lee teaches that the outlet pipe has a right angle bend where the refrigerant gas enters the compression chamber (31a).

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments filed 17 February 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

19. As an initial matter, regarding the distinguishing features discussed in the interview on 3 February 2010, the examiner suggested particular a right angle bend in the outlet pipe within the sound deadening space. This suggestion was only partially incorporated into the amendment (i.e. only the right angle bend, not its disposition within the sound deadening space), hence the examiner's position that the rejections have not been overcome.

20. Regarding the limitations added by the amendment of 21 January 2010, the examiner maintains that while the structures disclosed by Ide and Lee are not identical to that of the applicant in layout or function, they fall within the scope of the claim language. In particular, limitations such as "adjacent," "along," and "constant direction" are too broad in scope to be read as the applicant apparently intends. Accordingly, the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 4,911,619 to Todescat et al. and US 3,750,840 to Holme teach mufflers for refrigerant compressors utilizing gas pipes with right angle bends within sound deadening spaces.

22. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Stimpert whose telephone number is (571)270-1890. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-4:00PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3746

/P. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3746
4 June 2010